

duration of living nature, beyond the terms we have indicated.

But I may be asked is this Theory equally as well founded in every point which serves for its basis ; is it certain, according to your experiments, that a globe, as large as the earth, and composed of the same matters, cannot refrigerate from incandescence to actual temperature in less than 74,000 years, and that in order to become heated to the point of incandescence a 15th of this time, that is 5000 years, would be required : and also that it should be surrounded all that time by the most violent fire ; if so, there are as you say strong presumptions that this great heat of the earth could not have been communicated to it from a distance, and that consequently the terrestrial matter formerly made a part of the mass of the sun ; but it does not appear equally proved that the heat of this body on the earth is at present but  $\frac{1}{50}$  part of the heat of the globe. The testimony of our senses seems to refute this opinion, which you lay down as a certain truth, for although we cannot doubt that the earth has an innate heat, which is demonstrated by its always equal temperature, in all deep places where the coldness of the air cannot communicate ; yet does it result that this heat, which

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